

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: September 28, 2023

RE: Flu & COVID-19 vaccine updates: delivery within two weeks, eligibility, high risk groups & more

QUICK FACTS

- The influenza vaccine and Moderna Spikevax® XBB COVID-19 vaccine are ready for delivery.
- COVID-19 vaccines will accompany influenza auto-shipments to support co-administration. Primary care offices that would like to receive COVID-19 vaccines with their auto-shipment must order COVID-19 vaccines using the [online vaccine order form](#).
- The first auto-shipment will be delivered to your facility by Critical Path courier, starting on **Tuesday October 3**, at no cost to your facility. Refer to the auto-shipment delivery schedule below.
- The following populations are eligible for both [influenza](#) and [COVID-19](#) vaccination as soon as vaccines become available:
 - Hospitalized individuals and hospital staff
 - Long-term care home residents, staff and caregivers
 - Residents and staff of retirement homes and other congregate living settings
 - Individuals at high risk for complications or hospitalization due to [influenza](#) or [COVID-19](#) infection
 - Health care workers and first responders
- Halton Region Community Immunization Clinics will begin offering XBB product on **October 2**. Appointments are available for eligible persons 6 months of age and older and can be booked at halton.ca/COVIDvaccines. XBB vaccine has also been provided to long-term care home and retirement home partners for administration on-site. At this time, due to limited supply XBB product is not available through pharmacies.
- Vaccination for the general population is anticipated to start **October 30**. Do not plan large-scale vaccination clinics before this date.
- Join Halton Region Public Health on **October 4** at 8-9 p.m. for a [virtual Primary Care Town Hall](#) to learn about the outlook for the 2023-24 respiratory virus season, therapeutics and an immunization update for influenza and COVID-19. (Following the ISPA immunization Mainpro+ accredited CME at 7-8 p.m.). [Register for one or both sessions online](#).

INFLUENZA VACCINE KEY INFORMATION

- The following **influenza vaccine products** will be available this influenza season:

Age Group	Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)		High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV-HD)	Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV-adj)
	FluLaval Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent	Fluad®
6 months to 64 years	✓	✓		
≥ 65 years	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent will be prioritized to hospitalized individuals and residents of long term care homes and retirement homes. Remaining doses will be made available for administration to other seniors in the community.
- Primary care providers can anticipate receiving fewer influenza doses in their auto-shipment(s) than what was received in 2022 because the Ministry of Health only receives a portion of the total provincial supply in October. Additional influenza vaccines can be ordered through the [online vaccine order form](#) starting **October 16**.

COVID-19 VACCINE KEY INFORMATION

- [NACI](#) and the [Ministry of Health](#) recommend using **XBB COVID-19 vaccines** this fall. Bivalent vaccines, while not recommended, are still available for ordering.
- Moderna Spikevax® is currently the only XBB COVID-19 vaccine product that is authorized by Health Canada. Pfizer and Novavax XBB products are currently awaiting Health Canada authorization. These products should be available later this fall. Individuals should not delay vaccination to wait for a particular vaccine product.

INFLUENZA & COVID-19 VACCINE DELIVERY INFORMATION

- The auto-shipment delivery schedule for the fall vaccination campaign is as follows:

AUTO-SHIPMENT DELIVERY SCHEDULE		
Municipality	Delivery Date	
	Auto-Shipment #1	Autoshipment #2
Milton and Halton Hills	Tuesday October 3	Wednesday October 11
Burlington	Wednesday October 4	Thursday October 12
Oakville*	Thursday October 5 OR Friday October 6	Friday October 13 OR Monday October 16
<p><i>*Oakville orders that have not been received on October 5 will be delivered on October 6 and orders that have not been received on October 13 will be delivered on October 16.</i></p> <p><i>Auto-shipment #2 delivery dates are dependent on when Halton Region receives a second influenza vaccine delivery from the Ministry of Health.</i></p>		

- Facilities **must** have a staff member present on site to receive their vaccine delivery **between the hours of 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Requests for a specific delivery time **cannot** be accommodated. Any vaccines not received by the facility, will be returned to Halton Regional Centre (HRC) and another delivery will be attempted the following week.
- Public hospitals, long-term care homes and retirement homes will be receiving **all** of their initial influenza vaccine from the **first auto-shipment**.

- Facilities that have asked to receive COVID-19 vaccines with their influenza auto-shipment, will receive requested doses with their first auto-shipment. Facilities will be receiving the Moderna Spikevax® XBB product.
- If additional doses are required, vaccines must be ordered using the [online vaccine order form](#). Orders placed by **October 5, 2023** will be sent with your second auto-shipment. Orders placed after this date will be sent as per the [Vaccine Distribution Schedule](#).
- Primary care providers will be receiving their initial influenza vaccines in **two auto-shipments**.
 - Primary care offices that would like to receive COVID-19 vaccines with their auto-shipment must order COVID-19 vaccines using the [online vaccine order form](#). Orders placed by **October 5, 2023** will be sent with your second auto-shipment. Orders placed after this date will be sent as per the [Vaccine Distribution Schedule](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [2023/2024 Universal Influenza Immunization Program \(UIIP\), Ministry of Health](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance, Ministry of Health](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.